

## Shigellosis

**Background.** Shigellosis is an enteric disease caused by bacterial infection.<sup>^</sup> Most people infected with shigella develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps starting a day or two after they are exposed to the bacterium. The diarrhea is often bloody. Shigellosis usually resolves in five to seven days. Shigella usually passes from one infected person to the next, primarily as the result of the bacterium passing from stools or soiled fingers of one person to the mouth of another person. Every year, about 18,000 cases of shigellosis are reported in the United States. Because many milder cases are not diagnosed or reported, the actual number of infections may be twenty times greater.

<sup>^</sup> *CDC > Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases > Disease Information. Health Topics A to Z.*

**Reporting.** In Missouri, shigellosis has been a reportable disease for over ten years. Cases are reported to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) through the Missouri Health Surveillance Information System (MOHSIS). Based on a combination of clinical and laboratory criteria, cases are assigned a status of confirmed, probable, suspect, etc. Only confirmed and probable cases are presented here. Nationally, shigellosis is a reportable disease. Cases are reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). NNDSS data for 2003 was not available at the time of analysis.

